

April 10, 2009

Dear Friend,

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is crafting a new surface transportation authorization to replace the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which expires on September 30, 2009. I am a member of the committee and look forward to using that position to advocate on behalf of New Mexico's surface transportation needs.

This legislation is a six-year bill that authorizes our nation's surface transportation programs. The majority of the Federal funds in the bill will be allocated by formula, with the state departments of transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Planning Organizations, and local transit agencies determining which projects will be funded.

Although the current Federal-state-local partnership is of considerable use, not all communities are treated equally in the decision-making process. To compliment the work done by these agencies, and to ensure communities are full partners in these important programs, a small percentage of the overall investment of the authorization bill will be available for Member-designated High Priority Projects. Because I want to make sure that the transportation needs of communities and rural areas in New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District are addressed with the investment provided in the authorization legislation, my office is accepting requests for High Priority Projects.

At this point, it is not certain High Priority Projects will be included in the final bill because it is not known what funding will be available for surface transportation programs. We are currently faced with a very low budget number for surface transportation programs and while the Committee is planning to include Member-designated High Priority Projects in the final authorization legislation, that could very well change if we cannot find ways to generate sufficient revenue to invest in our country's critical surface transportation infrastructure needs.

Please understand that resources are limited and the needs of New Mexico communities far

outstrip what funding might be included in the legislation for projects. Therefore, I will be unable to ask for funding for all project requests made to my office. If you request more than one High Priority Project, you must rank them in priority order.

The deadline for submitting High Priority Project requests to my Congressional office is no later than Friday, April 24th. Please [fill out the attached project request form](#) and e-mail it - along with at least one local or state letter of support for the project - to Peter Ambler of my staff at peter.ambler@mail.house.gov by April 24th. Please note, as required by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, all requests must be made public on my Congressional website. If you have questions please contact Peter Ambler in my Washington, DC office at (202) 225-2365.

Sincerely,

Harry Teague

Member of Congress

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